

Pawsitive Press

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Senior Pets

Heather Manfredi, DVM

When our pets reach the age of 7 years old, they have moved into their “golden years.” On the average, 7 years old equates to 55-65 human years. Our pets’ bodies and organs begin aging at a more rapid rate once they become a “senior at seven.”

What does this mean for your pet? As he or she ages, we can see signs at home that clue us in to decreasing function of his or her body systems. Drinking more water, and in turn urinating more, can be our only sign of diabetes, kidney insufficiency/failure, or endocrine (hormone) disease. Reluctance to exercise may be the result of arthritis or heart disease. Changes in appetite, vomiting, diarrhea, coughing, and sneezing can be indicative of various disease processes that involve the liver,



kidneys, heart and lungs. Many of these changes happen over time and are sometimes difficult to recognize because we see our pets every day. Identifying these early and bringing your pet in for a physical exam leads to a greater chance of early diagnosis and treatment.

Most of our pets have been generally healthy in their younger years and have never needed a full biochemical profile, complete blood count (CBC), thyroid hormone level, urinalysis, electrocardiogram, radiographs, or any other diagnostic procedure—apart from yearly heartworm testing and intestinal parasite screening. The physical exam performed yearly can provide a great deal of

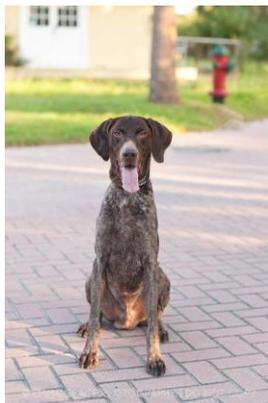
information; however, without the benefit of biochemical profiles and other diagnostic tests, it is difficult to assess how well the internal organs are functioning. In many cases, performing these tests alert us to problems that are just beginning—and early diagnosis leads to early treatment. Early detection, and early treatment, can extend your pet’s longevity and quality of life.

The American Veterinary Medical Association and the Animal Hospital of Dunedin recommend yearly screening of your senior pet. Your veterinarian will make recommendations for your pet according to the physical exam findings. At the Animal Hospital of Dunedin, our goal for our patients in their “golden years” is to prolong life with quality.



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MR. MOSSEY



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“Mossey” (fondly know around here as “Stanley”) came to us at the beginning of June as a stray. “Mossey” is a beautiful, active, Red German Shorthair Pointer, who thinks he is a lap dog. About a week later, we were finally able to locate his owner, and much to our surprise, they had no interest in coming to get him! It turns out the dog we thought was closer to 6 years old, was actually closer to 10 years old! His owner decided that he could no longer care for this handsome boy and turned him over to the AHofD. Once “Mossey” became ours, we did a full work up on him. It turns out that he was heartworm positive (not good, but especially not good for someone his age), was in desperate need of a dental, and a neuter. Treatment for the heartworm was a high priority and his expensive treatment was generously donated to the hospital. Once “Mossey” completed the heartworm treatment, he was neutered and had a dental on September 25, 2013. He is a beautiful dog, who deserves a wonderful home to finish out his golden years. He has been with us for three months, and as much as we like having here, we’re sure he’d like a place to run! If you know someone who might be interested in adopting “Mossey” please contact the office or All Dog Rescue of Florida (727) 235-8238, who is handling his adoption!



National Veterinary Technician Week

Veterinary technicians are critical to the day-to-day function of veterinary practices, and play vital roles in preserving animal health and welfare. National Veterinary Technician Week, first celebrated in 1993, takes place in the third week of October each year, and provides an opportunity to recognize veterinary technicians' contributions.

Although we value veterinary technicians every day of the year, we take this week to honor their commitment to compassionate, high-quality veterinary care for all animals.

Thank you, veterinary technicians, for all you do!

Our Wonderful Technicians!



Vicky



Lesley



Kerry



Mandy



Kelly



Jackie



Jason

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www.ahofd.com



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\$108

Senior Wellness Screen

(**\$50.65 savings**)

Senior Wellness Screen includes the following: chemistry, cbc, heartworm test, thyroid level, urinalysis, and microalbuminuria (for cats also includes leukemia and fiv test). Call the office today to schedule your pets visit. May not be combined with any other offer.

10/31/13 NL



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\$5 Off

\$5 off Bath with Annual Exam

Call to schedule an annual exam appointment and leave your pet for a bath and receive \$5 off the cost of the bathing services. The bath will include shampooing, ear cleaning, pedicure, warm air drying, and brush out.

Expires: 10/31/13 NL



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\$10 Off

\$200 Retail Mix and Match

- *Shampoo
- *Heartworm Prevention
- *Flea and Tick Control
- *Food
- *Prescription Medication
- *Dietary Supplements

Expires 10/31/13 NL